

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of eliminating redundant rules from a data administration system comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a new rule;
- b) comparing the new rule with an existing rule in said data administration system; and
- c) eliminating the existing rule when the new rule encompasses the existing rule.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the new rule includes at least one parameter and the step of comparing includes comparing the at least one parameter of the new rule with the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the new rule encompasses the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule matches the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the new rule encompasses the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule defines a class of parameters that includes the parameter of the existing rule.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter includes one of a timestamp, node name, domain name, receiver name, event name, or event type.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the existing rule includes a plurality of parameters and the step of comparing includes comparing each of the plurality of parameters with the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing includes the steps of:

- a) determining whether the existing rule has precedence over the new rule;
and
- b) comparing the existing rule with the new rule if the existing rule has precedence over the new rule.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of determining the precedence includes determining whether the existing rule precedes the new rule in time.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of removing the existing rule from the data administration system.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of flagging said rule so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of moving said rule to another table so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

12. A method of eliminating a redundant rule from a data administration system comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a new rule including at least one parameter;
- b) comparing the at least one parameter of the new rule with a corresponding parameter of an existing rule in said data administration system; and
- c) eliminating the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule encompasses the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the new rule encompasses the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule matches the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the new rule encompasses the existing rule then the at least one parameter of the new rule defines a class of parameters that includes the parameter of the existing rule.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein said at least one parameter includes one of a timestamp, node name, domain name, receiver name, event name, or event type.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the existing rule includes a plurality of parameters and the step of comparing includes comparing each of the plurality of parameters with the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of comparing includes the steps of:

- a) determining whether the existing rule has precedence over the new rule;
and
- b) comparing the existing rule with the new rule if the existing rule has precedence over the new rule.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of determining the precedence includes determining whether the existing rule precedes the new rule in time.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of removing the existing rule from the data administration system.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of flagging said rule so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

21. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of moving said rule to another table so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

22. A system for eliminating redundant rules from a data administration system comprising:

- a) an entry device for entering a new rule into the data administration system; and
- b) a compare unit for comparing the new rule with an existing rule and eliminating the existing rule if the new rule encompasses the existing rule.

23. The system of claim 22 further including means for eliminating the existing rule when the new rule encompasses the existing rule.

24. The system of claim 22, wherein the new rule includes at least one parameter and the compare unit compares the at least one parameter of the new rule with the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the new rule encompasses the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule matches the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the at least one new rule encompasses the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule defines a class of parameters that includes the parameter of the existing rule.

27. The system of claim 22, wherein the compare unit determines whether the new rule has precedence over the existing rule and compares the existing rule with the new rule if the new rule has precedence over the existing rule.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the determination of the precedence includes the determination of whether the existing rule precedes the new rule in time.

29. The system of claim 24, wherein said at least one parameter of the new rule includes one of a timestamp, node name, domain name, receiver name, event name, or event type.

30. The system of claim 22, wherein the new rule includes a plurality of parameters and the compare unit compares each of the plurality of parameters with the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

31. The system of claim 22, wherein eliminating the existing rule includes the removal of the existing rule from the data administration system.

32. The system of claim 22, wherein eliminating the existing rule includes the flagging of the existing rule so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

33. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of moving said rule to another table so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

34. A system for eliminating redundant rules from a data administration system comprising:

- a) an entry device for entering a new rule into the data administration system, the new including at least one parameter;
- b) a compare unit for comparing the at least one parameter of the new rule with a corresponding parameter of an existing rule in the data administration system; and
- c) means for eliminating the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule encompasses the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the at least one parameter of the new rule encompasses the corresponding parameter of the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule matches the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

36. The system of claim 34, wherein the at least one parameter of the new rule encompasses the corresponding parameter of the existing rule when the at least one parameter of the new rule defines a class of parameters that includes the parameter of the existing rule.

37. The system of claim 34, wherein the compare unit determines whether the new rule has precedence over the existing rule and compares the at least one parameter of the new rule with the corresponding parameter of the existing rule if the new rule has precedence over the existing rule.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the determination of the precedence includes the determination of whether the existing rule precedes the new rule in time.

39. The system of claim 34, wherein said at least one parameter of the new rule includes one of a timestamp, node name, domain name, receiver name, or event type.

40. The system of claim 34, wherein the existing rule includes a plurality of parameters and the compare unit compares each of the plurality of parameters with the corresponding parameter of the existing rule.

41. The system of claim 34, wherein eliminating the existing rule includes the removal of the existing rule from the data administration system.

42. The system of claim 34, wherein eliminating the existing rule includes the flagging of said rule so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

43. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of moving said rule to another table so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

44. The system of claim 34, wherein the compare unit is configured to eliminate an existing rule from the data administration system if it is a member of a group for which a new rule is being added.

45. A method for eliminating redundant rules from a data administration system, said data administration system having at least one existing rule having a plurality of parameters, the method comprising:

- a) entering a new rule into the data administration system, the new rule includes a plurality of parameters; and
- b) passing the plurality of parameters of the new rule to a compare unit, the compare unit configured to:

compare each of said plurality of parameters of the new rule with each of the corresponding parameters of the at least one existing rule, and

eliminating the at least one existing rule from said data administration system when each of the plurality of parameters of the new rule encompasses a corresponding one of the plurality of parameters of said at least one existing rule.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein each of the parameters of the new rule encompasses the corresponding one of the plurality of parameters of the at least one existing rule when each of the parameters of the new rule matches the corresponding one of the parameters of the at least one existing rule.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein each of the parameters of the new rule encompasses the corresponding one of the plurality of parameters of the at least one existing rule when each of the parameters of the new rule defines a class of parameters that includes the corresponding plurality of the parameter of the at least one existing rule.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the parameters of the at least one existing rule includes a timestamp, the parameters of the new rule includes a timestamp, and the compare unit compares the timestamp of the at least one existing rule with the timestamp of the new rule to determine whether the existing rule precedes the new rule in time.

49. The method of claim 45, wherein the data administration system further includes a plurality of existing rules, each having a plurality of parameters, and the compare unit compares the parameters of the new rule with the corresponding parameters of each of the existing rules.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of removing the existing rule from the data administration system.

51. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of flagging the existing rule so that it is ignored by the data administration system.

52. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of eliminating the existing rule includes the step of moving said rule to another table so that it is ignored by the data administration system.